

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 01607 131701Z
ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1089
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S E C R E T JERUSALEM 1607

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1&2
TAGS: PBOR, PORG, MARR, UNSC, IS, LE
SUBJ: SOUTH LEBANON: ISRAEL - CHRISTIAN RELATIONS

REF: JERUSALEM 1597

1. RELIABLE SOURCE AT UNME HQ IN JERUSALEM (NOT SIILASVUO OR PRIETO) SEE ISRAELI HAND BEHIND MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT PRESENTED BY HADDAD/SHIDIAK TO ERSKINE JUNE 13. SOURCE CONSIDERS IT TOO SOPHISTICATED TO HAVE BEEN DRAFTED BY THE CHRISTIAN COMMANDERS AND NOTE POINTS WERE WORKED OUT IN A MEETING ATTENDED BY BEN BEN GAL IN NAZARETH JUNE 12.

2. ON JUNE 11, DURING MEETING BETWEEN UNIFIL, HADDAD AND SHIDIAK AT BINT JBAIL, HADDAD INITIALLY SHOWED FLEXIBILITY RE UNIFIL'S ORIGINAL DEPLOYMENT PLANS. IDF LO COL YORHAM HAMIZRACHI ASKED HADDAD TO STEP OUT OF THE MEETING AND WHEN LATTER RETURNED, HE REJECTED UN'S PROPOSALS.

3. HAVE NOW RECEIVED FURTHER REPORT OF SIILASVUO/ERSKINE JUNE 12 MEETING WITH EITAN (JERUSALEM 1597). EITAN EMPHASIZED
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UNIFIL SHOULD AVOID PRESSING DEPLOYMENT IN AREAS CONTROLLED BY THE CRISITIANS. HE EXPRESSED HIS CONVICTION THAT SOON AFTER IDF WITHDRAWAL, IN ONE OR TWO WEEKS, HADDAD WILL BECOME MORE REALISTIC AND COOPERATIVE WITH UNIFIL AND WOULD THEN ALLOW PRESENCE OF UNIFIL IN AREAS UNDER HIS CONTROL. EITAN EMPHASIZED THAT ISRAEL WAS COMMITTED TO THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF THE CHRISTIAN ENCLAVES AND THAT IDF WITHDRAWAL WILL IN NO WAY

MINIMIZE THIS COMMITMENT. HE ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH ISRAEL WOULD NOT BE PRESENT IN SOUTH LEBANON AS FROM JUNE 13, ISRAEL WAS WILLING TO USE ITS INFLUENCE TO CONVINCE HADDAD TO BE COOPERATIVE WITH UNIFIL, BUT ONLY IF UN WOULD NOT PRESS FOR HASTY DEPLOYMENT IN AREAS UNDER HADDAD'S CONTROL.

4. GEN BEN GAL AT SAME MEETING REITERATED THAT UNIFIL'S DEPLOYMENT IN THE CRISTIAN ENCLAVES SHOULD INITIALLY BE LIMITED TO THE FIVE UNTSO OPS AND TO SOME PATROLLING IN COORDINATION WITH HADDAD AND SHIDIAK.

5. SIILASVUO AND ERSKINE WERE DISCOURAGED BY EITAN'S UNWILLINGNESS TO FACILITATE UNIFIL'S DEPLOYMENT ON JUNE 13. AS A RESULT OF POSITION ADOPTED BY EITAN, AND GIVEN UNDERTAINITIES SURROUNDING JUNE 13 EVENTS, SIILASVUO AND ERSKINE RECOMMENDED WALDHEIM NOT SEND WRITTEN REPORT TO SC AT THIS TIME.
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